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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/523,558

10/20/2005

Thomas Mattes

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20306

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03/06/2009

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EXAMINER

KENNEDY, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1791

MAIL DATE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/523,558	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MATTES, THOMAS	
	<b>Examiner</b> TIMOTHY KENNEDY	<b>Art Unit</b> 1791	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-93 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30,34,37,40,43,46,49,52,55,58,61,64,67,70 and 73 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2/1/2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/8/05</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims withdrawn from consideration are 31-33,35,36,38,39,41,42,44,45,47,48,50,51,53,54,56,57,59,60,62,63,65,66,68,69,71,72 and 74-93.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Claims 31-33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68, 69, 71, 72, and 74-93 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to the nonelected Groups, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 1/29/2009.
2. Regarding the error made by the Examiner as noted by the Applicant in the reply of 1/29/2009, the Applicant is correct. Claims 70 and 73 were supposed to be part of Group I, and will be examined with the rest of the claims of Group I.

### ***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 61 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate

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changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Examiner wishes to point out to applicant that claims 30, 34, 37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55, 58, 61, 64, 67, 70, and 73 are directed towards an apparatus and as such will be examined under such conditions. The material worked upon or the process of using the apparatus is viewed as recitation of intended use and is not given patentable weight (Please see MPEP 2114 R1-2115 R2 for further details).

6. Claims 30, 34, 37, 40, 43, 52, 55, 58, 64, 67, 70, and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Exner et al (DE 19952998, already of record, herein after referred to as Exner, using machine translation as English equivalent). Regarding claim 30, Exner teaches:

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7. Apparatus for manufacturing a three-dimensional object by a generative manufacturing method, wherein the object is manufactured in a vertical direction layer-wise from a building material (Figure 1)
8. A support (Figure 1, parts 9a)
9. A material application device for applying layers of a building material onto a support or a layer (Figures 1 and 2, parts 7, 7a, and 7b)
10. An arrangement for interconnecting the applied layer with a layer, which was applied before, in a solidification region (First Embodiment, page 3 of English translation)
11. The support and the material application device are moveable with respect to each other in such a way, that during the interconnection of the applied layer to a layer, which was applied before, the layer, which was applied before, and the material application device are moved with respect to each other and the support can be moved relative to the material application device in a rotational movement with feed in direction of the axis of rotation. (First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation and Figure 1, parts 3, 4, 7, 9a, 9b, and 10)
12. Regarding claim 34, Exner teaches:
13. The feed is carried out continuously or in steps (First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)
14. Regarding claim 37, Exner teaches:
15. The support and the material application device are moveable in such a way, that in a complete rotation the support departs from the material application device by an

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amount of a thickness of one layer (First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

16. Regarding claim 40, Exner teaches:

17. The support moves and the material application device and the arrangement for interconnecting the layers are stationary (First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

18. Regarding claim 43, Exner teaches:

19. The support is stationary and the material application device and the arrangement for interconnection move (First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

20. Regarding claim 52, Exner teaches:

21. Several solidification regions are provided ((Figure 1, part 1, First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

22. Regarding claim 55, Exner teaches:

23. Several supports are provided (Figure 2, parts 3a and 3b, Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

24. Regarding claim 58, Exner teaches:

25. The feeds of the supports can be controlled independently (First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

26. Regarding claim 64, Exner teaches:

27. Several material application devices are provided (Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

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28. Regarding claim 67, Exner teaches:

29. Wherein to each solidification region there is assigned an arrangement for interconnection of the applied layer to a layer, which was applied before (First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

30. Regarding claim 70, Exner teaches:

31. The building material is in form of powder and the apparatus for interconnection of the applied layer to a layer of the building material, which was applied before, is preferably a laser for sintering the powder or an arrangement for solidification of the powder by a glue (First Embodiment, page 3 and Third Embodiment, page 4 and 5 of English translation)

32. Regarding claim 73, Exner teaches:

33. The support is part of a container for accommodating the building material (Figure 1, parts 2, 4, 9b, and 10)

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

34. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

35. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.



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2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

36. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

37. Claims 46 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Exner, in view of Kubo et al (U.S. PGPub 2001/0050448, already of record, herein after referred to as Kubo). Regarding claims 46 and 49, Exner does not teach:

38. Claim 46) The velocity and/or the feed in direction of the axis of rotation can be varied

39. Claim 49) The circumferential velocity of the rotational movement can be varied.

40. In the same field of endeavor Kubo teaches, varying the speed at which the material is applied by adjust the speed of the applicators rotation (paragraphs 0108 and 0115). This creates a more even layer.

41. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the variable speeds as taught by Kubo, using the Exner

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apparatus, since doing so would produce a more even powder layer, thus producing a better product.

42. Claim 61 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Exner, in view of Masters (U.S. Patent 5,134,569). Regarding claim 61, Exner does not teach:

43. The supports make a rotational movement on a non-circular path, preferably a polygon with n corners, for the case that n supports are provided.

44. In the same field of endeavor Masters teaches placing the building area (i.e. the supports) on a two axis slide system. This would allow the user to create a non-circular rotational movement during the creation of the model.

45. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the two axis slide system as taught by Masters using the Exner apparatus, since doing so would allow precise movements to create objects where tight volumetric tolerances are needed.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TIMOTHY KENNEDY whose telephone number is (571) 270-7068. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Del Sole can be reached on (571) 272-1130. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

tjk

/Joseph S. Del Sole/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791